



## WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

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# Lander/Green Mountain Mule Deer Working Group Charter

April 24, 2014

### **Purpose:**

The working group will assist the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's (WGFD) Lander Region in an analysis of the South Wind River mule deer herd unit (deer hunt areas 92, 94, and 160) and the Sweetwater mule deer herd unit (deer hunt areas 96 and 97). This working group will engage in meaningful discussions in order to provide the WGFD with recommendations that may be used in developing short and long-term herd management recommendations for mule deer in hunt areas 92, 94, 96, 97, and 160.

### **Requirements:**

- Working group members will be required to attend scheduled meetings.
- Members will be expected to present their own views and those of their peers on the matters being discussed and be willing to engage in respectful, constructive dialogue with other members of the group and the public.
- Members will be expected to attend public forum(s) designed to increase public understanding and awareness of mule deer management in these herd units/hunt areas.
- Each working group member is required to communicate on a regular basis with the constituent group that he or she represents, keeping them informed of working group progress.
- The WGFD will provide a working group facilitator and note taker and is responsible for information dissemination among the working group.

### **Goals:**

- The primary goal is to develop recommendations that will address future management of the South Wind River and Sweetwater mule deer herd units.

### **Deliverables:**

- The working group will provide recommendations, including but not limited to potential hunting season construct, for each herd unit to the Lander Region Wildlife Supervisor.
- Herd management recommendations, including additional public and WGFD review, will be completed no later than November 1, 2015 in order to incorporate potential changes into the 2016 big game hunting season application packet and 2016 deer hunting seasons.
  - NOTE: If the working group is able to formulate recommendations prior to

November 1, 2014 they may be presented for public review no later than December 15, 2014 for possible inclusion in the 2015 big game hunting season application information.

- The recommendation(s) will be presented to the public during the 2014 and/or 2015 December public meetings.
- During this process written public comment will be accepted and analyzed for consideration by the working group.

**Internal Decision Making Process:**

Working group members, through the help of a WGFD facilitator, will strive for consensus whenever group decisions are necessary.

**Timeline:**

The formation of the working group will occur in May, 2014. The working group will conduct business beginning June 1, 2014 and ending no later than December 31, 2015.

**Membership:**

The working group will be comprised of individuals who represent sportspersons, landowners, outfitters, Lander/Riverton businesses, sportspersons groups and the WGFD. The number and interests may be as follows:

- 2 - Public at large
- 2 - Landowners/livestock producers (may include ranch managers) with interests in the aforementioned herd units/hunt areas.
- 2 - Hunters (one may be a youth 12-17 years of age)
- 1 - Outfitter
- 2 – Non-governmental organization/sportsperson group representatives
- 1 - area business person
- 2 - WGFD field level wildlife managers

Technical advisors may be requested on an as needed basis.

**Scope/Sideboards:**

- Discussion and recommendations shall be specific to mule deer management in deer hunt areas 92, 94, 96, 97, and 160.
- The Lander/Green Mountain Mule Deer Working Group will be advisory in nature and will make recommendations to/through WGFD, which will then go through additional public review and internal WGFD review at the Lander Region and Wildlife Division administration (Cheyenne) levels.
- Recommendations shall be based in accepted scientific mule deer management practices

**Publicity:**

The Department's Lander Region Information and Education Specialist will be responsible for drafting and distributing meeting announcements. All meeting agendas, approved minutes and graphic presentations will be posted in a timely fashion on the Department's webpage for public information and review.

**Endorsement Process:** The working group is advisory in nature. The Department will look to this group for direct advice and innovation in formulating recommendations for the future management of the South Wind River (hunt areas 92, 94, and 160) and the Sweetwater (hunt areas 96 and 97) mule deer herd units. The Department will incorporate the working group recommendations into future management decisions to the maximum extent possible.

**Officers:** The working group will select a chairperson. The chair's role is to work with the facilitator to develop meeting agendas, identify information and technical resource needs, and to coordinate and collaborate with the working group members throughout the tenure of the group.